

Enrichment Activity 4



Food for Thought

When different cultural groups meet, they exchange goods, ideas, and even foods. For example, apple trees, which we often think of as native to the United States, were brought here from England. They were brought to England by the ancient Romans. The foods on the chart to the right are staple products in your local supermarket. These foods have become familiar to many Americans, yet each was introduced to this continent through cultural exchange.

DIRECTIONS: Use the information above and study the chart showing foods typically found in supermarkets throughout the United States to answer the following questions.

1. According to the chart, which foods originally were found only in Asia?

2. Which two foods shown in the chart were first cultivated in South America? Under what major food groups would you classify them?

3. According to the chart, what beverage was first consumed by people in Africa?

4. Which food shown on the chart originated on two different continents? How could you account for this fact?

Food	Country, Area, or Continent of Origin
oranges	China/Asia
grapefruit	West Indies
bananas	China, India/Asia
cherries	Western Asia/ Eastern Europe
chicken	China/Asia
turkey	North America
frankfurters (hot dogs)	Germany/Europe
tomatoes	South America
potatoes	Andes/South America
coffee	Ethiopia/Africa
yams (sweet potatoes)	West Africa/Africa

5. Which is the only food on the chart that originated on the North American mainland? Near the North American mainland?

6. Spanish explorers first brought oranges and chickens to the Americas. What does this suggest about early trade routes between Europe, Asia, and North America?
